United States Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20401

July 25, 1995

Mr. Carl Malamud
President
Internet Multicasting Service
1155 The National Press Building
Washington, DC 20045

Dear Mr. Malamud:

Your letter dated June 28, 1995, and mailed on July 13, 1995, arrived in my office yesterday. I do not agree with your characterization that I have called twice to yell at you. Both times that I called it has been because your actions, or those of your staff, have generated unusually high volumes of messages in our log file. Each time I called to inform you of the problems and ask that you take steps to correct them, as well as to make sure that you were aware of the terms of your *GPO Access* subscription agreement. After the most recent incident, I wrote to confirm my conversation with Brad Burdick and notify you that you could continue to use the service in a manner compliant with the subscription agreement or seek a refund of the unused portion.

In your response you state that you only dispatch four queries per day to our server and that I have misread the log file. I have attached a small portion of the log file for your IP address (192.101.98.5) from Sunday, June 4, 1995. As you can clearly see, your IP address was sending multiple improper requests for documents to the *Congressional Record* database. There are a total of 14 requests submitted just during the one second identified as Jun 4 08:57:58. Furthermore, these requests were submitted during three simultaneous sessions (19812, 22139 and 23336), although you registered and paid for a single subscription to the online *Congressional Record*. This pattern is representative of the requests that were submitted numerous times over several days.

You also state that your use of the *GPO Access* service is consistent with accepted technical practices. I cannot agree that it is an accepted technical practice run a program that submits multiple improper requests to a server over and over again, even when error messages are generated and returned to you. Your program adversely affected the reindexing of our databases to incorporate new data and slowed the response time to other users.

No one is questioning your legal right to re-disseminate uncopyrighted government information, but I am informing you once again that the method that you are using to obtain that data is not permitted under the *GPO Access* subscription agreement.

As I noted in my earlier letter, the *GPO Access* service is intended for research and reference purposes only. It supports searches resulting in the identification and retrieval of individual documents. The service is not intended for wholesale or systematic downloading. It was not designed to support, nor priced to recover the costs of, such activities. It is not, to use your expression, a bulk delivery service. If you wish to make arrangements for bulk purchase of the locator-coded files for the *Congressional Record*, you can contact the *GPO Access* User Support Team at (202) 512-1530 and they will be happy to assist you. This method is more directly comparable to your purchase of the SEC EDGAR data and is probably more suited to your requirements.

Furthermore, the use of multiple simultaneous sessions is serious violation of the *GPO Access* subscription agreement which clearly states:

> As a subscriber to the Congressional Record database on the WAIS Server, you will be responsible for prepayment of the subscription fee and for all use under the IP address (or user-id and password) established by this subscription. You (and your employer, if this subscription is purchased for institutional use) are responsible for the accuracy of all statements made in this registration form, including the number of work stations accessing the WAIS Server under this subscription agreement. False statements can result in immediate suspension of service, without refund of the unpaid balance of the subscription; appropriate action by GPO to recover the unpaid subscription fees or other damages; and criminal penalties under 18 USC 1001, 1030, among other provisions.

Since your actions are an apparent violation of the *GPO Access* subscription agreement, I have referred this matter to our Inspector General for investigation. Your subscription to the *Congressional Record* Online via *GPO Access* has been suspended pending completion of this investigation.

Any further inquires or correspondence concerning this matter should be referred to:

> Mr. James H. Ivey
> Office of the Inspector General
> U.S. Government Printing Office
> Mail Stop IG
> Washington, D.C. 20401

The telephone number of the Office of the Inspector General is (202) 512-0027. The fax number is (202) 512-1597.

Sincerely yours,

Judith C. Russell

Judith C. Russell
Director, Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services

CC: J.H. Ivey, Office of the Inspector General
W.P. Kelley, Superintendent of Documents
D. Spalding, Office of the General Counsel

DATA EXTRACTED FROM THE *GPO ACCESS* LOG FILE FOR JUNE 4, 1995

[Annotations in Brackets Added]

Beginning of Log Entries for June 4, 1995, 8:57:58 a.m., for IP 192.101.98.5

23336: 561279: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 1] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr00jn95.pt3.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
22139: 579009: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
23336: 561280: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
22139: 579010: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 2] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr02jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
22139: 579011: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
19812: 58403: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
23336: 561281: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
19812: 58404: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 3] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr01jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
19812: 58405: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
22139: 579012: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
23336: 561282: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 4] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr00jn95.pt3.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
23336: 561283: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
19812: 58406: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
22139: 579013: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 5] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr02jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
22139: 579014: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
23336: 561284: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
22139: 579015: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
19812: 58407: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 6] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr01jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
19812: 58408: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
23336: 561285: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 7] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr00jn95.pt3.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
23336: 561286: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
22139: 579016: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 8] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr02jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
22139: 579017: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
19812: 58409: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
23336: 561287: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
19812: 58410: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 9] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr01jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
19812: 58411: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
22139: 579018: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
23336: 561288: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 10] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr00jn95.pt3.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved

23336: 561289: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
22139: 579019: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 11] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr02jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
22139: 579020: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
19812: 58412: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
19812: 58413: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 12] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr01jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
19812: 58414: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
23336: 561290: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
22139: 579021: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
23336: 561291: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 13] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr00jn95.pt3.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
23336: 561292: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
22139: 579022: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: file:
[Query 14] "/diska/wais/data/1995_record/cr02jn95.dat.nog" type "TEXT" is not in database "1995_record", and can not be retrieved
22139: 579023: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: -2: we'll try to open it anyway
19812: 58415: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
23336: 561293: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc
22139: 579024: Jun 4 08:57:58 1995: 100: checking access for client 192.101.98.5 to database /wais/indexes/1995_record/index.acc

End of Log Entries for June 4, 1995, 8:57:58 a.m., for IP 192.101.98.5